

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Neurology</b>				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	$\beta$ -Site APP-cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that aminoimidazole compounds could help treat AD. <i>In vitro</i> screening of Wyeth's compound library identified an aminoimidazole that inhibited BACE1. In cell culture, optimized derivatives of the compound reduced <math>\beta</math>-amyloid (A<math>\beta</math>) secretion, a product of BACE1 activity that is associated with AD, compared with that in untreated controls. In a mouse model of AD, the compound lowered serum A<math>\beta</math> levels by 71% compared with mock treatment. Next steps include improving brain permeability of the compounds.</p> <p>Wyeth is developing BACE1 inhibitors to treat AD. CoMentis Inc.'s CTS-21166 BACE1 inhibitor is in Phase I testing for AD. At least four other companies have BACE1 inhibitors in preclinical development for AD.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1480</b>  <b>Published online Oct. 8, 2009</b></p>	Patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Malamas, M.S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 16, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9006752</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Michael S. Malamas, Wyeth Research, Princeton, N.J.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:malamam@wyeth.com">malamam@wyeth.com</a></p>